

A Monograph on Women Sexual Abuse

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Sexual abuse is sexual conduct or a sexual act that is imposed upon a woman, man or child without their approval. Sexual assault involves violence by a man, woman or child against a woman, man or child. Sexual abuse is an act of violence that the attacker uses against someone they consider to be weaker than themselves. It does not come from an uncontrollable sex drive but is a crime intentionally committed with the intention of manipulating and humiliating the victim. Much of the perpetrators of sexual assault are women—a fact that even now, in the 21st century, reflects their social status as inferior to men. Sexual abuse in a patriarchal culture is just another way of oppressing women [1].

Sexual behaviour or touch that occurs without your consent including rape. Sexual assault [2] can include non-contact activities, such as someone flashing you or forcing you to look at sexual images. Sexual harassment is often called sexual misconduct or aggression. Legal definitions of sexual harassment and other sexual abuse offenses may differ widely from state to state. If you were raped, that's never your fault. Any form of sexual contact with someone unable to consent, such as someone who is a minor, has an intellectual disability or is ignored or unable to respond. Any type of sexual contact with someone who does not consent to rape, tentative rape, sexual harassment, sexual contact with a child, pleasant or unwelcome touching above or under clothing, sexual assault can also be verbal, visual or non-coherent. It's something that causes a person to become involved in unwanted sexual activity or publicity, voyeurism or peeping, exhibitionism, sexual harassment or threats, asking others to pose for sex photos, sending inappropriate texts [3]. Sexual abuse has a number of implications for wellbeing, both in the short and the long term. The most significant immediate effects are psychological distress symptoms [4], felt as discomfort, fear, and feelings of helplessness; hyper arousal triggered by personal safety concerns; and high rates of anxiety. It can be preceded or exacerbated by depression, which can evolve into posttraumatic stress disorder [5] which suicidality if prolonged. Substance abuse is more prevalent in survivors of sexual assault in the longer term, particularly where there have been multiple violations and where it has occurred during childhood [6]. The psychological effect also involves profound shifts in the sense of self by the victim/survivors that affect many aspects of their lives, especially their relationships with people. There's a lot of victim/survivors struggling to have sex with guys. As a group, they are more likely to participate in sexual danger, including early sex, more partners, older partners, transactional sex, and more risky sex. You would also have a chance of becoming abusive partners. The physical effects [7,8] of sexual assault are various. In the absence of contraceptives,

pregnancy may occur and is especially stressful if the termination is not an option. Sexually transmitted diseases [9] can be acquired and can lead to pelvic pain, inflammatory pelvic disease [10] and infertility [11] when untreated. HIV transmission during a sexual assault [12] is a significant concern of the victim in high incidence settings. In the process of sexual assault genital and other injuries [13] may also occur. Extremely violent rape [14], especially gang rape, has been associated with very severe injuries including the creation of genital fistulae [15]. If the woman is pregnant, loss of pregnancy [16] and rape may be correlated with murder, which is called rape homicide. Rapes are involved in 16 percent of female murders in South Africa [17]. It has been shown that sexual assault has long term emotional and physical impacts on women regardless of age when the trauma occurred. Sexual assault survivors also internalize their symptoms which can cause depression [18]. Additionally, studies have shown that women have trouble trusting in relationships, lower self-esteem, sexual problems, and higher levels of drug abuse following sexual assault. This would seem likely that there would be a drastic effect on the self-image due to the physical and emotional abuses that result in sexual assault.

Research using a matched sample of women who responded to a magazine survey found that women who had been sexually assaulted showed more body dissatisfaction and greater self-consciousness about their appearance compared to those who had not been assaulted. Women who had been sexually abused often showed less confidence in undress before their partner and have intercourse with the lights on. It is estimated that sexual harassment is committed against 1 in 6 women [19]. One study found that women who had been abused before age 12 were more likely to have body dissatisfaction and met eating disorder criteria.

Sexual abuse is a global issue that remained a mystery in recent times. It primarily affects women and girls but also sexually abused boys and adults. The WHO study listed above found that 7 percent of women have been sexually abused worldwide by someone other than a partner. Sexual abuse involves several behaviours, including rape and attempted rape but other unwanted sexual activities as well. Rape is generally defined as the non-consensual penetration of a penis into the vagina, mouth, or anus, although legal definitions can vary. The word attack is widely used when an object other than the penis is used.

There is increasing concern about the abuse faced by women and children, especially girls, during conflict and displacement. The extent and scale of the opposing sexual assault remain uncertain, as the data



is still minimal. Studies have been carried out in conflict settings in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America; moreover, prevalence estimates differ widely, ranging from 4-3% in Kosovo to 39-7% in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo estimated the prevalence of sexual harassment among female refugees in complex emergencies at 21% following a systematic study and meta-analysis [20,21]. Domestic violence while conflict is an important issue, it is important to understand that other perpetrators, including intimate partners, continue to experience sexual violence during the conflict as well as women. Research in Cote d'Ivoire rural districts found that 33 percent of women surveyed reported having experienced sexual harassment since age 15. Of those, 29 percent reported being their husband or intimate partner, 10 percent reported being someone other than an intimate partner and only 0.3 percent reported being the victim of an armed combatant. Similar findings were found in a population-based DRC survey, with 35% of women reporting sexual harassment from their intimate partner and 16% reporting nonpartner sexual violence [22]. There have also been accounts of abductions, sexual servitude, and aggressive abuse by armed actors. In conflict and displacement circumstances, as a result of increased social disturbance and the presence of weapons, women may be subjected to violence and sexual exploitation during travel, upon arrival and in camps, and after the conflict. In these cases, resources are hard to find, making it much more difficult, and women can be forced to trade in sex for food, money, or health.

Sexual assault is a felony punishable by statute, and penalties differ depending on the form and number of offenses, age of the victim, etc. [23]. Most of the sexual assault is undertaken by those close to the victim, and both men and women may be perpetrators, while males commit most reported sex crimes. Sexual harassment can also occur in the context of a partnership, even when the spouses may have previously engaged in consensual sexual acts.

The latest findings reveal that 35% of females around the globe was experienced physical or sexual intimate partner abuse or sexual harassment by unknown persons. More local studies show that up to 70% of females in their lifetime have encountered physical or sexual violence from a close companion. Research suggests that women who have undergone intimate physical or sexual partner abuse record higher levels of depression, abortion, and HIV infection relative to females they don't have before [24]. Males who experienced their parents using violent behaviour toward the women from Middle East and North Africa, and males who suffered some sort of domestic abuse as infants, were much more likely to admit sexual violence in their relationships. In Lebanon probability of sexual aggression towards males who experienced their parents assaulting their families throughout adolescence was even more nearly 3 times more [25]. A recent study reveals that about 58 percent of the 87k women were mercilessly slaughtered worldwide in 2017 were killed by abusive partners or family members, indicating that almost 140 women worldwide are murdered by a member of their family in every 24 hrs. About 30K of the women intentionally killed by their current or former intimate partner in 2017 [26]. 49% of females are internationally reported victims of sex trafficking. Women and girls together constitute 72% of victims of sexual trafficking, in this girls reporting greater than 3 out of 4 victims. Rather 4 in 5 trafficked women and almost three in four trafficked children are trafficked for sexual abuse [27].

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